

POSTC Use of Force Reporting Guidelines

The purpose of this guidance is to aid Connecticut law enforcement in the preparation of the State mandated Use of Force Reporting Form. In being consistent with the application of the policy we can assure that there will be an accurate reporting of use of force events as mandated by C.G.S. 7-282e and 54-1t.

Questions have recently arisen on what type of conduct/activity would require reporting to the state? Although agencies may maintain more detailed internal records, this document will simply address when a use of force incident form needs to be submitted to the state.

Incidents that require state reporting:

1. Any incident where an officer uses the following force actions should be reported to the state:
 - a. Striking another person with an open or closed hand, elbow, knee, club, or baton
 - b. Kicking another person
 - c. Using pepper spray, or electronic defense weapon, as defined in C.G.S. 53a-3, or a less-lethal projectile on another person
 - d. Using a chokehold or other method of restraint applied to the neck area or that otherwise impeded the ability to breathe or restricts blood circulation to the brain of another person
 - e. Discharging a firearm, except during a training exercise or in the course of dispatching an animal
2. Any incident where a police officer uses physical force that is likely to cause serious physical injury, as defined in C.G.S. 53a-3, to another person or the death of another person.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if an officer displays a firearm?

One area of concern was the reporting by an officer on the drawing of a firearm. As explicitly written in Section 10, Line #4. A use of force report does not need to be prepared at the mere drawing of a firearm. For example, if a firearm is held at the low ready position or while conducting a building search, these circumstances in and of themselves, would not require reporting. A report would be required when a firearm is actually pointed at an individual.

What if an officer displays a C.E.W?

A use of force report does not need to be prepared at the mere drawing of a C.E.W., i.e. one held at the low ready position. A report would be necessary in the instance where the C.E.W. is drawn and the laser sight is activated and pointed at an individual.

Do I need to report using a simple control hold on a subject while handcuffing them?

No, mere force to control the arms of an individual would not require a report. However, if the officer is required to perform a takedown or strike the individual in order to gain control, then that would require a report.

What if the force action taken isn't listed but causes a serious physical injury on the subject?

If an officer uses any force, whether listed or not, on a subject and the force causes serious physical injury, the incident must be reported.